

CHIPS Summit examines Virginia's semiconductor industry goals

BY TABITHA REEVES

Though differing in political affiliation and economic ideology, state politicians, semiconductor experts, and higher education professionals gathered on July 18 at Northrop Grumman headquarters in Falls Church to attend the CHIPS for Virginia Summit where they expressed their support for the Commonwealth of Virginia to become a leader in the semiconductor industry.

From cell phones and rice cookers to solar panels and military-grade weapons, semiconductor chips are widely used as the physically-small component that enables crucial technologies to function.

Since the technology is greatly necessary and ever-evolving, the semiconductor industry is predicted to become a trillion dollar industry by 2030, and countries continue to race for influence via chip research, development, manufacturing, and distribution.

"In my opinion, there's an Kevin Crofton opportunity for the Commonwealth to really assert itself and become home to more than its fair share of the industry's ecosystem," said Kevin Crofton, a conference speaker with over 30 years' experience in the field.





Sen. Mark Warner

Given Virginia's natural resources, healthy economy, well-ranked higher education institutions, and willing government, the state has the capacity to "set the international standard

for what the semiconductor industry can be and will be," added Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R).

'[The United States is] engaged in an economic challenge of our lifetime, particularly vis-à-vis the People's Republic of China," Virginia Sen. Mark Warner (D) said. "National

security is really about who is going to maintain technology dominance."

Warner noted that in the 1990s, the U.S. dominated the industry, producing CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »



Cardinal Corner project looks to bring hotel to Purcellville

BY VALERIE CURY

At the Purcellville Town Council work session on July 25, developer Casey Chapman and his partners Sam Chapman and Aaron McCleary presented their vision for annexation of a 7.039-acre property they bought a year ago for \$650,000, according to public records.

The proposed project, called Cardinal Corner, is currently operating as Berlin Turnpike Holdings, LLC. The property sits CONTINUED ON PAGE 20 »





"SHE SAVED MY LIFE"

Loudoun county resident Dawn R. had been experiencing the painful side effects of Peripheral Neuropathy, "my feet and legs were extremely painful and my doctor told me there was nothing they could do. That I would have to take Gabapentin for the rest of my life." Then she met Ashburn's very own Rachal Lohr, L.Ac.

Peripheral Neuropathy is the pain, discomfort, and numbness caused by nerve damage to the peripheral nervous system. Dawn explained that daily tasks like opening doors and using the bathroom were overwhelmingly painful.

"How can you live for the next 30 years when you don't even want to get out of bed to do simple things?"

She was experiencing the burning, numbness, tingling, and sharp pains that those suffering from neuropathy often describe. "The way that I would describe it, it's equivalent to walking on glass." Dawn hadn't worn socks in five years and was wearing shoes two sizes too big so that nothing would 'touch' her feet.

Unfortunately, Dawn's story is all too familiar for the over 3 million people in the U.S. suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy.

If you're unfortunate enough to be facing the same disheartening prognosis you're not sleeping at night because of the burning in your feet. You have difficulty walking, shopping or doing any activity for more than 30 minutes because of the pain. You're struggling with balance and living in fear that you might fall. Your doctor told you to 'just live with the pain' and you're taking medications that aren't working or have uncomfortable side effects.

> PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY? Call (703)263-2142 to schedule a consultation!

Fortunately, two months ago Dawn read an article about Rachal and the work she was doing to treat those suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy, without invasive surgeries or medications.

Rachal Lohr, founder of Firefly Acupuncture and Wellness, in Ashburn, is using the time tested science of Acupuncture and a technology originally developed by NASA that assists in increasing blood flow and expediting recovery and healing to treat this debilitating disease.

"Now when I go to bed at night I don't have those shooting pains. I don't have that burning sensation. I don't have pain coming up my legs," Dawn enthusiastically describes life after receiving Rachal Lohr's treatments. "I can wear socks and shoes!"

Dawn and her sister now operate a successful dog walking business, sometimes covering up to 5 miles a day.

"It's life altering. As far as I'm concerned Rachal saved my life!"

Rachal has been helping the senior community for over 16 years using the most cutting edge and innovative integrative medicine. Specializing in chronic pain cases, specifically those that have been deemed 'hopeless' or 'untreatable', she consistently generates unparalleled results.

Visit www.FIREFLYAcuAndWellness.com to learn more and to take advantage of their New Patient Offer!

What was once a missing link in senior healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of Northern Virginia.

If you've missed too many tee times because of pain or you've passed on walking through the town centers with friends because you're afraid of falling, it's time to call Rachal and the staff at Firefly.

It's time you let your golden years BE GOLDEN!

Rachal Lohr, L.Ac. is once again accepting new patients. And for a limited time will be offering \$40 Consultations so call (703)263-2142 before September 1st to schedule a consultation.



Savoir Fare is everywhere – a renovation in Round Hill

BY LIZ TENNEY JARVIS

In these times, as an increasing number of landmark and historic buildings are razed to make way for development, Round Hill's former Howell Brothers Furniture Emporium has taken on yet another use. After three years of renovation and preservation, the iconic 1880's building at 6 Loudoun Street will become an event venue,





C'est Bon. C'est Bon will be a part of the highly successful catering company, Savoir Fare.

Savoir Fare's owner and Executive Chef, Joan Wolford, has been a part of the space in the past when the building housed the Bluegrass Jam sessions where her food would

be sold for takeaway. After 2019 when Wolford took possession of the building, meals from Savoir Fare were sold during Covid as the site provided a no-contact pickup location.

Walking across the threshold of C'est Bon now, it is immediately evident that the beauty and craftsmenship of the original construction have been preserved.



The space has been adapted to host special events of every kind – celebrations, wedding parties, dinners with a theme, and any other memorable gatherings. Lighting and period pieces such as the bar have been salvaged and utilized from places that were being torn down.

A definite highlight are the works



painted inside and outside by local artist Penny Hauffe. Hauffe specializes in the trompe l'oeil style such that when a curtain is parted on the small stage (accompanied by a 100-year-old baby-grand piano), a mural realistically portrays doors that open to a gorgeous landscape beyond.

Steps leading up to a second floor have

also been painted with books and other items to appear as though the stairs are actually ascending bookshelves. On the outside of the building, the preserved stained glass windows on the upper and lower floors have been joined as one by the perfectly detailed painting by Hauffe. There is artwork by other local artists such as renowned watercolorist,

Alice Power.

The star of the new venue is most certainly the food. Joan Wolford has been preparing culinary wonders for decades. Her early experience began when she was working at the beloved Heart In Hand restaurant in Clifton,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

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Just like nothing (else) on earth: Trailhead Park

BY TIM JON

There were two paths from which to choose: one, well-paved and more civilized, stuck to the wooded area and playground; the other, rough and rocky, descended - seemingly to the original,



infernal pit itself. I chose the latter, of course. Pulling into the parking area for Trailhead Park in Ashburn, I could only see the initial grounds, obviously geared more toward fam-

ilies and children; though I find these amenities wonderful things, I have, and probably always will, find my way toward the darker, more adventurous, sometimes even riskier features such as I enjoyed that memorably cold, windy morning just off Rt. 659 – Belmont Ridge Road.

I wasn't even sure, and still have my doubts, about whether the severely sloping course even belonged to the Park at all; being in my usual sunrise adventure mode, I didn't see another soul the entire time I negotiated my way down to the

bottom of that chasm.

It really was a formidable downhill slope; I had to exercise care so as not to slide and fall or, as I feared I might come upon a spot where the solid ground would give way to nothing but air, and I'd find myself groping for handholds as I fell to the little body of water at the foot of the hill.

But, I made my way down in one piece at least as far as a point in the trail took a dramatic switchback and then turned again back to the fast-approaching pond. I could see, that what had vaguely resembled a beaver dam from above, had now turned out to be some sort of erosion control device made up of the same rocky material as the descending trail.

I considered taking a stroll across the man-made 'walkway,' but thought better of it, in light of the extreme temperature and strong wind, which had followed me all the way down the chasm; I didn't fancy making my way back up that hill, soaked to the gills.

In fact, after taking as many shots as

By Michael

Oberschneider, Psv.D.

I could muster with hands that had lost most of their feeling and flexibility, I actually was cold enough to decide to run back up the steep grade.

Now, I often run while delivering mail:



I'll jump out of my mail truck and make a 40-or50-yard scamper to someone's front porch, often toting a prodigiously large and heavy parcel. I do this five or six days a week. I'm in good shape, right?

Well, I was about halfway up this ascent back from Dante-land, and I had to give up the footrace idea altogether; I gained

a healthy dose of humility while I sought for air and kept my legs moving in a more modest fashion. I panted my way upward at a noticeably slower pace, as I regretted leaving warmer headgear at home. I was thankful that the early hour and unseasonable weather saved me the embarrassment of having an audience. My vehicle in the parking lot wasn't getting close enough, fast enough, for me at least.

Strong coffee and a car heater can do wonders for a wintry morning, even for an exhausted photographer looking for adventure on 'the wild side.'

But the experience offered some benefits: I got to see the clouds marching across the sky, driven by the same wind I was feeling - and the moon was reflecting a bit of the morning light, before it took its morning nap. I was grateful for the exhilaration offered by the exercise, the sights and the battering of the moving air all around me. I was happy to be dry, and as relatively safe as one can be these days in Northern Virginia.

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Discussing separation or divorce with children

BY MICHAEL OBERSCHNEIDER, PSY.D.

Separation and divorce is fraught with emotional upheaval and adjustments. Sharing the news with your children can be very challenging. However, there are compassionate and effective communication strategies that can significantly influence how your children navigate the forthcoming loss and

changes.

When discussing separation and divorce with your children, it's important to keep in mind that the goal is to deliver the message with warmth, clarity



and simplicity. What you share and how you share it should be determined by your child's age, comprehension level, and emotional maturity. A structured, yet flexible, outline can guide the conversation in a reassuring and comforting manner.

Offer a consistent message: Despite your personal differences and the upset that led to your separation as a couple, it's best if you can present a unified front and narrative to your children. This necessitates agreement on how to explain the reasons for your separation and what changes will ensue.

Instead of saying, "Your father and I can't live together anymore," consider phrasing it as "We have decided that it's better for everyone if we live in different houses." When circumstances allow, both parents should engage in the discussion. This reassures your children that you remain committed to their well-being as loving parents.

Steer clear of the blame game: The focus of the conver-

sation should be on the changing family dynamics and not the assignment of blame. Negative remarks about one another can

inadvertently harm your children emotionally and can potentially cause lasting damage. Try to keep your language neutral, and be mindful of what you share with vour children.

Maintain a balance between change and consistency: Children often find solace in routines and familiarity during uncertain times. Assuring them about the aspects of their lives that will remain the same, like their school or activities, is a good thing. You will want to prepare them for any upcoming changes, such as new living arrangements, to mitigate surprise.

Encourage open dialogue without pressure: It's important to promote an environment where your children feel comfortable asking questions. Many children need time to process the information, and if your children aren't ready to talk immediately, it's best if you reassure them that they can always approach you later. Letting your children know that you love them and are always there for them is what's most important.

Offer repeated reassurances: Your children will need a lot of reassurance and support during their transition from being an intact family to being a separated and divorced one. They may worry if the love they've always believed in and relied on from you will be there in the same ways as their family dynamic changes. Regularly reminding your children that your love for them will never change, is a good thing to do.

Expect a variety of reactions: Every child is unique and will process the news of separation and divorce differently. Some might express sadness, others may vent their anger, and some might not visibly react at all. It's crucial to validate his or her emotions and assure them that it's normal to express their feelings.

Focus on a brighter future: It's also helpful for CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



Passing the baton: PC hands off Zoning Ordinance Rewrite to BOS

BY LAURA LONGLEY

A lot has happened in Loudoun in the past 30 years: In 1993, there was no Greenway. No data centers. No farm breweries. Four farms that had begun to grow grapes—Willowcroft, Windham,

GOVERNMENT

Tarara, and Breaux. Little wonder, then, that the Loudoun

County Zoning Ordinance, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 16, 1993, offered few if any regulations applicable to today's 100 plus data centers, or development modifications to guide construction of Affordable Dwelling Units, or noise restrictions on any of the 50 wineries that host special events to boost their bottom lines.

With all the changes over the decades, what's surprising is that the four years of "rewriting" the Zoning Ordinance has taken only a few thousand hours of Planning and Zoning staff time, hundreds of hours of Zoning Ordinance Committee members' time, 25 meetings of the Planning Commission, and three BOS public hearings with a total of 134 speakers to comment on the work in progress, now a draft of 700 pages.

Once completed, the rewritten ordinances will provide the standards and regulations needed to implement the county's 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

There is still more work to be done and more stakeholders to have their say, as the supervisors learned at the July 26 meeting where Michelle Frank, chair of the Planning Commission, announced she was passing the baton to BOS Chair Phyllis J. Randall. Quipped Randall, "I ran track in school, usually the anchor leg."

Given the complexity of some of the regulatory topics, the Planning Commission recommended (9-0) that eight Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAMs) and/or Zoning Ordinance Amendments (ZOAMs) be addressed after adoption of this new Zoning Ordinance. Those topics include a) prime soils and cluster developments, b) data centers, c) attainable housing, and d) competing interests in western Loudoun among residents and rural business owners.

On that final point, Randall observed, wineries and breweries are now the "data centers of the west," with similar economic, environmental, noise, lighting, traffic, and quality of life issues at play.

Major conflicting themes are 1) easing use-specific standards for livery stables and equine event facilities; 2) establishing limits for outdoor lighting

and music that apply consistently for all rural economy uses; 3) easing restrictions upon limited breweries, limited distilleries, Virginia farm wineries, banquet/event facilities, and restaurants; 4) strengthening regulations for limited breweries, limited distilleries, Virginia farm wineries, and banquet/event facilities to reduce noise, lighting, parking, and traffic impacts; and 5) adding a new definition of "farm" to the new Zoning Ordinance that would be applied generally throughout the new document.

These themes were echoed again by the speakers at the Board's recent public hearing:

Capturing the positions of the wineries were Kerem Baki, owner/winemaker of Hillsborough Winery, and Lacey Huber, vice president of Stone Tower Winery.

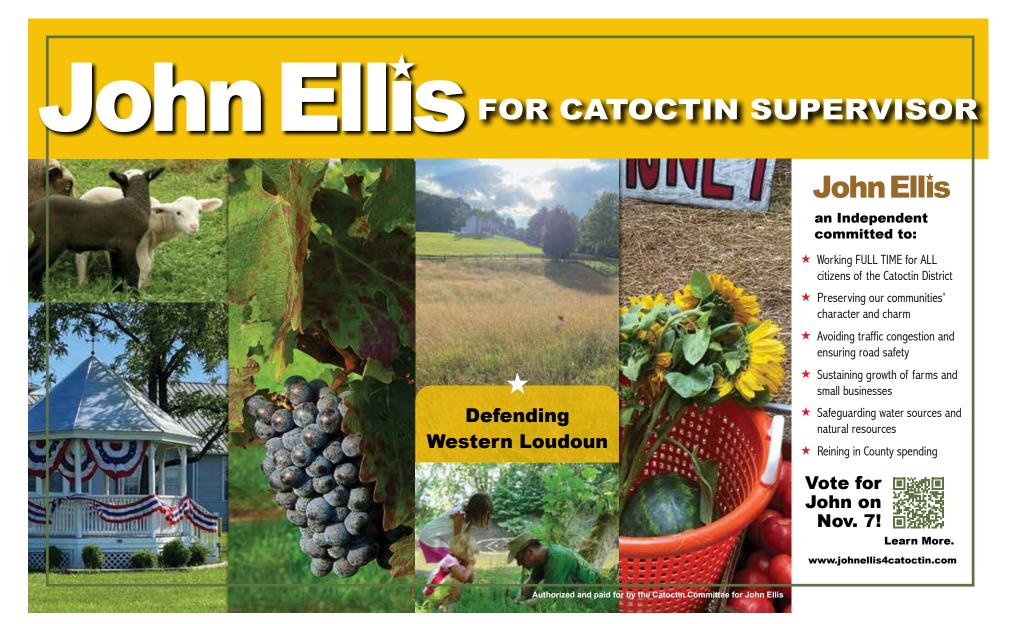
"I'm the current president of the Loudoun Wineries and Wine Growers Association," said Baki. "We support the simplification of the definition for Virginia farm wineries to align with the Code of Virginia. This is for two primary reasons: one, to ensure ease of incorporation of any changes made by the state—there was recently one in July and, secondly, to allow wineries to keep a competitive edge in the state by having the same rights and regulations as other wineries in neighboring counties."

Lacey Huber reiterated the wineries' theme emphasizing the Code of Virginia, which is more open-ended. "Specifically, I'm asking for the simplification of the definition for the Virginia farm wineries to align with the Code of Virginia. Please delete the text found within the July 6 draft and replace with 'Winery. Virginia Farm—a winery licensed as a farm winery in accordance with the Code of Virginia 4.1–219 as amended.'

"In terms of what we do," she said, "so much of it is about supporting our community and preserving green space for people to come out and enjoy."

Kate Zurschmeide, who arrived with a large portrait of her multi-generational family, spoke to multiple agribusiness issues. "I'm one of the founding family members of Bluemont Vineyard, Dirt Farm Brewing and Great Country Farms, which was founded in 1993. "I urge you to be wary of unintended consequences and astronomical costs lurking in this rewrite. When you redefine terms such as 'farm' and the uses allowed on them, you are redefining the future of our family and countless others."

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Cupidity all around us

BY CHARLES HOUSTON

Perhaps all of us have some degree of cupidity – greed, or simply wanting more and more of something. That's fine unless it's at the expense of others. Then it's a problem, and Loudoun has some nasty examples.

The Dulles Greedway

No surprise that its Aussie owners are back again, this time for a 40% increase in tolls.

OPINION

Their rationalizations ring about as true as the hawking

of a snake oil salesman. Here are two: That the 40% toll increase will actually save money for commuters, and that it will keep traffic off neighborhood streets. My college minor was economics, and through that lens I think the truth is the exact opposite of those claims.

The toll road is governed by the State Corporate Commission (SCC)

and the Greedway owners lobby constantly and effectively. Over the years it has requested constant rate increases in order to earn a fair return on its investment. So, what is that investment? And what is "fair"?

The Greedway was originally financed for \$350 million in the 1993 - 1995 time period. The highway failed to meet initial toll projections and its debt was restructured. (Meaning, "Lenders, please lower my mortgage payments.")

A sale and more borrowing

In September 2005 the Australian firm Macquarie bought the road for \$617 million. Would a fair return be based on the \$350 million cost, or on the \$617 million paid by the new owner? I'd say the lower number is the fair one, but lobbyists convinced the SCC to use the much higher purchase price to justify increased tolls. Loudoun and Fairfax were left out of that decision.

There are strong suspicions that the road's owners have added still more debt, probably just to take some cash from its asset, and it wants the SCC to determine the fair return based on this inflated level of debt (i.e., debt over and above the purchase price.) To be fair, around \$70 million was needed to widen the road from four lanes to six.

From bad to worse

The cupidity gets worse. In addition to the huge 40% toll increase, the Aussies had a Delegate introduce a bill before the General Assembly demanding many disturbing things: Removing much State oversight; allowing it to negotiate in secrecy with the SCC; removing requirements for public hearings; retracting the right of County officials to sit in on those meetings; and exempting its negotiations from State transparency laws.

Blimey! Can you say, "Thank heaven

for Route 7"?

Kill Good Dirt

Three years ago, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a Board Member Initiative (BMI) to amend zoning and related regulations to protect prime agricultural soils and to improve the design of cluster subdivisions, which many people in western Loudoun detest

A lot of staff work produced a document that would protect 70% of these prime soils. A war ensued.

Conflict

One warring combatant was the Count of Conservation, whose mustered forces included engineers and other of his consultants, and several land speculators who've turned conservation easements into a lucrative cash business. A handful of other landowners were brought along, and on July 13 the war CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »



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Please include your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions as necessary Deadline for print edition is the third week of each month, or, online any time

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Stop approving new development

Dear Editor:

A recent readers' poll in a local paper asked: "What should be the Board of Supervisors' top priority in the last six months of their

term?" The most LETTER common response, by far, was that the Board should "stop

approving new development." According to County data, more than

900 new houses will be built in western Loudoun within the Board's current, four-year term. The County estimates that those new residences will have generated an additional 9,000 vehicle trips per day on our rural roads.

There's a big gap between County supervisors' rhetoric about preserving rural areas and these facts on the

economic lifeblood

My name is Juan Pablo Segura and

I'm honored to be running for Virginia's

31st Senate District. I hope to earn your

Kickstarting the Commonwealth's

Today I'm writing

about some big eco-

nomic problems and

are Virginia's

Dear Editor:

support.

LETTER

my approach to fixing them.

ground.

When confronted with citizens' concerns about over-development, supervisors typically respond that they "have not approved a single new house" in western Loudoun. Their defense is that, while the development obviously rolls on, we can't hold them responsible for it.

This is strange because land use is one of the principal responsibilities of county governments in the Commonwealth of Virginia. How is it that the Board of Supervisors can be responsible for land use - but not be responsible for over-development in our rural areas?

The County's Zoning Ordinance currently allows for more than 10,000 new houses to be built in Loudoun's rural

economy is a team effort, and I recently hosted Virginia's Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Caren Merrick, and other stakeholders at a roundtable for small business owners.

That conversation made it clear that small business owners are dealing with 3 key problems: costs, bureaucracy, and taxes.

CNBC recently released a report that shows that, while our economic situation is improving rapidly, Virginia hovers near the bottom of the 50 states when it comes to the cost of doing business and cost of living. These factors are particularly devastating for potential

areas without any review by the supervisors of how it affects traffic, quality of life, or local business.

But who approves the Zoning Ordinance?

Right now, the Board of Supervisors is working on a complete overhaul of the Zoning Ordinance. The draft they are considering continues to allow for those 10,000 new rural residences, and the Board has already decided that it will do nothing to change that.

So the Board's claim that they won't approve a single new house in western Loudoun seems pretty misleading. When they vote to adopt the revised Zoning Ordinance, they will in fact be voting to re-approve a huge amount of new, completely unsupervised development.

The supervisors' claim that they have not approved any new houses in western CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »



small business owners.

During my time serving on the board of the Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority, Virginia was awarded more than \$170 million dollars to accelerate small business growth.

This funding will be used to support **CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 »**





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Bremseth appointed as permanent Purcellville Town Manager

At the end of the July 25 Purcellville Town Council Work Session the town council came out of closed session and voted 5-0-2 to appoint Loren "Rick" Bremseth as the new permanent town manager.

Bremseth, who lives with his wife Marlena in Round Hill, is a retired Navy SEAL with over 35 years of experience in strategic planning. Mayor Stan Milan, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut, and Council Members Carol Luke,

Ron Rise Jr., and Boo Bennett voted to appoint Bremseth as permanent town manager. Council Members Erin Rayner









and Mary Jane Williams abstained. Rayner said she needed more time to decide. In council comments before the closed session to discuss the town manager position, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

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Jordan Miller: an inspiration to Loudoun County youth

BY TABITHA REEVES

In 2017, Jordan Miller led Loudoun Valley High School to its first basketball state championship with a

COMMUNITY

record of 30-1 and was named player of the year in his league. Now,

Miller is slated to play for National Basketball Association team the Los Angeles Clippers this fall.

Miller was the 48th overall pick in the NBA draft this June, after having recorded the second "perfect game" in National Collegiate Athletics Association history when he led the University of Miami to its first ever Final Four bid.

On July 28, friends and family of Miller, children bearing basketballs to be signed and members of the Purcellville community gathered inside the LVHS gymnasium to celebrate the 23-year-old's basketball career so far.

"[I'm excited to] make the community proud, because the community is what gives me strength and the love I get from here means a lot to me," Miller said.

During the opening speech of the

event, Mayor Stanley Milan announced that Purcellville is to be called "Miller-ville" through July 31.

Miller explained that he is grateful to have had various positive role models growing up, like his high school coach and his mother. However, as a young basketball player, he lacked an inspirational figure who made it from a small town to the big leagues.



Miller signing autographs.

"I want to be an image of hope for the younger kids," Miller said. "I'm hoping to have just paved the way for the younger kids and have them believe that 'If Jordan Miller can do it, I can do it."

Milan believes that being from a small

town was an asset to Miller's success, given the genuine familial and local support that "manifests itself in all that you do on your journey in life."

The event featured not only Milan as a speaker, but also Loudoun County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall (D-At Large), LVHS basketball coach Chad Dawson and Miller himself.

After speeches, Miller was available for a meet-and-greet, staying behind to sign basketballs brought by younger audience members. Eventually, he ended his night at The Purcellville Pub where he chatted with old friends and thanked local fans for their support.

Though Donna Miller's son has made it to the "big leagues," she said that it doesn't quite feel that way as a mother. For her, she is always proud and "in prayer" for the next step in Miller's life.

Donna Miller first became aware of her son's talent during high school games when audience members and coaches would approach her to talk. On various occasions, she was told that Miller has a "high basketball IQ."

After watching more closely to how Miller plays the game, she came to realize what people meant by that.

"He'll pass up a good play to make a



Jordan Miller and Mayor Stan Milan

great play," Donna Miller said.

Dawson noticed Miller's natural talent even before high school. When Miller attended Blue Ridge Middle School, Dawson watched Miller casually score points in a manner that set him apart from his age group.

While Miller has come a long way, he said that the path has not always been easy. For him, transitioning from one stage of life to another takes time to $\overline{\text{CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 }}$



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"Our town and county experts work for the citizens" – Vice Mayor Bertaut

BY VALERIE CURY

Work has begun on the Valley Springs II subdivision, which is inside the county and zoned as Joint Land Management Areas 2 and 3 (JLMA-2 and JLMA-3). The builder plans to construct 26 homes on 67.165 acres.

The development is south of A Street and next to the Valley Springs I subdivision, which is in the Town of Purcellville. The

GOVERNMENT entrance to Valley Springs II will

be Springbury Drive, located on A Street across from Blue Ridge Middle School.

The front portion of the development, which is JLMA-2, will have 5 homes on smaller lots, with the rest of the homes scattered throughout the 67-acre property –including 5 open space parcels.

The construction entrance to

en Carbelk



this development has raised concern over the years because it was planned to go through Valley Springs Drive. As this is the main road in and out of the Valley Springs I neighborhood, this has greatly worried the 39-home subdivision due to the safety of the residents and children.

In an email sent to the town council and read at the July 25 Purcellville Town Council Work Session, Valley Springs I resident and Home Owners Association Board Member Paul Orentas wrote, "Over the past few years as plans were being developed and approved by the County [for Valley Springs II], we voiced numerous concerns with the builder/developer regarding the location of the construction traffic entrance for the new subdivision."

Orentas said that the developer assured the HOA "that the construction entrance would be located on a newly constructed egress off A Street [Springbury Drive] just east of Blue Ridge Middle School."

"We have learned that the Town approved the use of Valley Springs Drive as the main egress into the new site for construction traffic. However, I do not believe enough consideration was given to the impact of this decision on the existing 39 homes in Valley Springs [I] and the resulting hazardous

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 »

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- tackle the Affordable Housing crisis
- ✓ stop Urban Sprawl in western Loudoun
- ✓ end the Car Tax over a phase out period
- restore Fiscal Responsibility by reducing wasteful spending
- create an Inspector General position to insure government accountability

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

Paid for by Friends of Stephen Karbelk

Discussion of the prime soils ordinance still lacks resolution

BY TABITHA REEVES

Though discussed at length since its conception three years ago, the Loudoun County zoning ordinance amendment, or ZOAM, that was written to preserve rich farming soil for rural economy purposes and limit housing development

GOVERNMENT

has yet to be officially passed or opposed.

On July 13, at a public hearing and work session by the county's Planning Commission, the decision to withhold further action on the plan until finding out more information passed 8-0-1. The ZOAM will be revisited at a "future work session."

Additionally, the public hearing made clear the general disagreement amongst Loudoun County farmers, landowners and other stakeholders about the impact, or – in some cases – lack thereof. of the amendment.

"It would be a fallacy to believe that if you pass this now it will have some permanent effect on the county," Western Loudoun resident Brook Middleton said, after explaining that zoning and rezoning ordinances are passed frequently in the county.

Instead of a lasting positive effect, some stakeholders fear that the proposed

ZOAM will de-incentivize conservation easements and thereby eliminate benefits brought by the easements.

The Loudoun County government defines conservation easements as a voluntary legal agreement in which a landowner retains ownership, use and enjoyment of their property while they convey certain rights to a qualified land trust to protect farms, forested areas, historic sites and natural resources."

An interactive map of Loudoun's conservation easements can be viewed on their website, and displays the over 75,000 acres of the county's soil that is protected by easement.

Once land is put under conservation easement, the decision cannot be reversed by a future legislative act.

"I'm concerned that the prime soil provisions of the proposed ordinance will significantly impact the benefits of a conservation easement to our family," Robbie Thompson, whose family owns the 320 acres of Stoney Point Farms in Hillsboro, said.

Thompson went on to explain that the monetary value of easements will decrease, since there will be a lower development value due to the limitations on building on prime soils. He does

not plan on placing the remainder of Stoney Point Farms under easement if this ZOAM passes.

Chuck Kuhn, president of the farming company JK Land Holdings LLC, explained that his company owns more land than any business in Loudoun County aside from Dulles International Airport. While thousands of their acreage is planned to go under conservation easements, the passing of the proposed ZOAM would change everything, according to Kuhn.

'I am here promising you it will have a detrimental effect on conservation easements in Loudoun County on me alone," Kuhn said. "It is going to be detrimental to the conservation easement program."

Commissioner Roger Vance (Blue Ridge) said that it is a "false narrative" to believe that the preservation of prime soils and effectiveness of conservation easements are mutually exclusive. His belief is shared by other stakeholders who spoke at the hearing and sent letters advocating for the passing of the ZOAM.

"We've heard a lot of misleading statements this evening about the effect on easements," John Ellis, Hillsboro resident and a candidate for the Board of Supervisors, said. "What's important to recognize is that [putting land under easement] has not had any effect on all the prime soils that we have lost to development."

11

Planning Commission Chair Michelle Frank (Broad Run), in agreement with other planning commissioners, are waiting to hear the results of a contractor study that will determine whether the prime agricultural soil ZOAM will hinder the success of conservation easements.

In addition to contention surrounding easements, many voiced opposing opinions on what percentage of prime farmland soils should be preserved per property and overall regionally according to the proposed amendment.

The ZOAM states that when a tract of land contains five or more acres of prime farmland soils, 70% of the soils must be left for farming and open spaces, leaving a remainder of 30% or less to be developed with residential clusters.

However, the most recent draft of the plan included a "savings clause," which can shrink that percentage of preserved soils to 30% if deemed necessary by developers, allowing up to 70% to be used for building residential clusters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

Reed announces run for Purcellville Town Council in November Special Election

Christopher G. "Chris" Reed has announced his run for the vacant Purcellville Town Council seat in the Nov. 7 special election. Reed, a Pennsylvania State University graduate, holds two bachelor's degrees - one in biology and one in environmental resource management.

Reed grew up in Ford City, Pennsylvania, where he enjoyed the out-

GOVERNMENT

doors and helping his father to build

as a family, with our two children." Reed, a northern Virginia resident

always made time to have experiences

since 2005, works as an environmental scientist with Jacobs Engineering. He develops clean-up and monitoring strategies for various types of environmental contamination. This problem-solving skill, along with his passion for Purcellville, make him the ideal candidate for helping to address the issues facing our town.

Said Reed, "I chose to live in the Town of Purcellville because I love it's architecture, incorporation of green space and the sense of calm I get when I drive into town." I would like it to stay this way, but have yet to see a path-forward for smart growth and sustainability. By that I mean, I would like to see more small-business amenities, such as quaint shops and activity outlets for all ages, not simply annexing land for the purpose of growing our population."

Reed said he wants to see Purcellville's small-town character be preserved, while also nurturing prosperity.

"When you live in a heavily populated



area there is no sense of community. Even though you might know your immediate neighbors, it's not the same small town feel that we have here in Purcellville. We have a town center, which has so much potential to be a drawing point for people," said Reed. Among local activities, Reed enjoys running and biking with his family on the W&OD trail, kayak-fishing, and landscaping.

Reed is campaigning to protect

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18 »

BOS authorizes CDA for public infrastructure at **Rivana**

During its July 18, meeting, the Loudoun Board of Supervisors authorized the creation of the Rivana at Innovation Station Community Development Authority. The CDA is a mechanism that allows for an investment in public infrastructure for the development without impacting the county's bond rating and fiscal health.

Rivana at Innovation Station is a 79-acre site northwest of Innovation Station, a stop along

GOVERNMENT

Metrorail's Silver Line, which

was approved during the May 16, Board meeting for up to

2,719 multifamily units and 3,297,000 square feet of office, retail and civic space. Rivana's owners, DWC Holdings LLC, petitioned for the CDA to help provide the public infrastructure, facilities and services for the development.

A CDA is intended to help finance public infrastructure and service costs for large-scale projects that would be difficult to finance otherwise. The county can authorize the CDA to issue debt using special revenues without obligating the "full faith and credit" of the county.

the family home. It

was a natural progression then for his father to frequently make the trek from Pennsylvania to help he and his wife, Anu, when they decided to restore their house on E. Main Street.

The Reeds purchased their historic home in 2012 and proudly worked to restore much of the original character, while also bringing it up to code and making it an enjoyable space. "Of course, I owe a debt of gratitude to my father for all that he taught me." "I also must give credit to my wife Anu, who was unwavering in her support and wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty!" "Through the adventure, we

Remembering Michael "Kevin" Malone

Michael "Kevin" Malone, affectionately known as "Kevin" to family, many friends and beloved colleagues, owner of the renowned Tuskie's Restaurant Group, passed away Saturday, July 1, at 10:53 p.m. at the age of 69, in Leesburg.

Kevin was the beloved and generous



owner/co-owner of six award-winning restaurants: Tuscarora Mill Restaurant in Leesburg, Magnolias at the Mill in Purcellville, South Street Under in Leesburg, and three Fire Works in Leesburg, Arlington, and Sterling, as well as Leesburg's event venue, Birkby House.

He was a local legend, renowned for his entrepreneurship, hospitality, sharp wit, and keen sense of humor. Kevin was born Oct. 23, 1953, in Washington DC and grew up in Annandale, VA.

He began his career in the hospitality industry bartending at his parents' house parties. His mother sent him to bartending school in Alexandria to hone his craft and she remarks frequently it was her best investment ever. Kevin eventually came to work at JR's Stockyards Inn where he met his friend and mentor Jim Wordsworth. Jim eventually encouraged him to open his own restaurant. In 1985, Kevin opened Tuscarora Mill in Leesburg VA and it has been a cornerstone of the community ever since. Kevin was committed to the local community and his employees and believed in excellent food served with outstanding service. He also enjoyed sharing his love of fine wines and Guinness.

His sense of humor was unparalleled, and he could never resist a quick-witted joke or pun to regulars of his restaurants or new guests alike. He made all feel welcome, comfortable, and loved whenever he met family, friends, and associates, a tradition of his since early childhood.

He is survived by his beloved wife Kathleen of 42 years, five children: Aemon, Colin, Evan, Regan, D'Laney, and seven grandchildren.

His funeral mass was held at St Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Purcellville on Thursday, July 13, followed by a celebration of his life and legacy at Birkby House.

Donations to honor Kevin may be made to St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church, 37730 St. Francis Ct., Purcellville, VA. 20132. Kevin Malone was fondly remembered by his cousin Patrick Malone who wrote the following on July 7:

"When I was five, my mother died, and Kevin very much became like a big brother to me in Annandale.

"I, us, we, the Malone family, Kevin's loving friends, and his many associates, our collective heart deeply aches in sadness and grief of his passing as we will all miss him very dearly.

"We will fondly remember Kevin's smile, his brilliant quick wit, his laughter, his charm, as well as his unmatched love and compassion for his family and friends.

"I toast to Kevin, right hand over my heart, holding a glass of an Irish beverage on high with my left hand, while I recite the following poem of mourning from the Emerald Isle in his honor:"

'Kevin, may the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sunshine warm upon your face. May the rains fall upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.'

PASSING THE BATON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

She repeated the message of the evening; to align the ordinance with the state regulation which she said "allows for business creativity and flexibility."

Avis Renshaw, owner of Lost Corner Farm and Mom's Apple Pie, explained farmers' concerns about on-farm processing facilities. The farmers would like the proposed ordinance changed from 51 percent of the products coming from the farm itself to 51 percent "Loudoun grown," she said.

"The cost of processing facilities is very expensive. There are very few farmers that could afford to build a processing plant and use their own produce there. It would be much better to have a more communal aspect to that provision," said Renshaw.

Sara Brown, who owns Oakland Green Farm, raises beef cattle and has a small bed and breakfast. "I like to think of diverse production, the agricultural landscape, as a critical component to our community and not as nice to have and not as a museum exhibit," she said.

"Importantly, all farms are not agribusiness and vice versa. Definitions are important. Certainly, you've heard tonight that some rural businesses are in varying states of compliance [with the Zoning Ordinance], the byproduct of a bursting, successful rural economy and regulations that haven't kept up very well."

Brown said, "There's cause for hope that we're diversifying and re-engaging with production agriculture in a way that we haven't in a generation. This evening, I was at the Loudoun County Fair, where hundreds of kids have dedicated their efforts to agricultural projects. There are more than 50 breeds of poultry represented. There are protein and fiber sheep and goats, as well as clubs that create farming opportunities for kids without farms of their own. And as long as we eat, farms will be needed." Middleburg resident Jeb Benedict said, "The rewrite fails to address the biggest concern of residents of the Rural Policy Area, which is the failure to properly manage high-intensity uses. They need to be a priority."

Said Benedict, "One is limiting site development for multiple high-intensity uses, such as taprooms and special event facilities. Second would be ensuring permitted uses are appropriate and scale to the intensity of use and parcel size. Third is to improve protections against noise and light pollution and ensure proper enforcement. Fourth is to improve the definition of agriculture operations or farms to tighten up on so-called farm breweries. And, five, the county should require actual farming—real brewing production—on site and disallow permanent food trucks."

Benedict concluded, "The board has an obligation to rural residents and to the county's future to preserve the rural and true farming character of western Loudoun. We want you to get it right. But please don't leave the issue of high intensity uses unaddressed too long."

"Balance" is the word Avis Renshaw emphasized. "It's really important to maintain a good balance and have businesses that respect residents and residents that respect businesses.

"I think when you get into the high-intensity entertainment businesses, it's a much bigger problem ... I'd like to not have noise after nine o'clock at night. I don't think that's too much to ask for a rural business. If you want to have a big deal that goes to one in the morning, do it in a place that's zoned for that and don't encroach on your neighbors ... By the same token, I know that wineries rely especially on their entertainment business. It's really hard to make a margin even in winery businesses," said Renshaw.

Further comment from citizens will be accepted as the rewrite continues into the fall.

DISCUSSION, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

In their presentation and responding to questions, project manager Jacob Hambrick and staff member Mark Stultz repeatedly stated that the addition of the clause was intended as a compromise to increase flexibility of the ZOAM.

"It seems like a loophole designed to render the entire effort to keep land available for farming moot," Chris Van Vlack, Lovettsville farmer and member of the Board of Supervisors-appointed workgroup on the issue, said.

In a letter Van Vlack sent to the Planning Commission, he pointed out that decreasing the preservation requirement to 30% would be lower than what the vast majority of stakeholders had requested.

Though some landowners advocated for up to 85% protection and there were others that were okay with 50%, only one stakeholder requested less than 30%, Van Vlack wrote, referring to Kuhn who asked for 20%.

"The percentage change directly conflicts with three plus years of public input and work group negotiations," Maura Walsh-Copeland, Loudoun County resident and member of the Zoning Ordinance Committee, said.

Some of those in favor of the proposed prime soils ordinance made the argument that this plan will create smaller and more affordable plots of land, introducing more economic diversity into Loudoun County.

"I feel passionately that agriculture should not be an industry only open to the ultrawealthy hiring staff to farm their land, but an array of people looking to enter a rewarding career for both themselves and the community," Loudoun Farm Bureau President Tia Earman said.

Earman characterized the ZOAM as "truly an equality issue."

Amongst disagreement and criticism, various speakers at the hearing, as well as commissioners such as Vance, made a point to thank staff and workgroup members for their continued effort on such a divisive issue.

"I want to make sure that we don't get out of balance here and don't forget that what we're trying to do here is to protect the soils that are irreplaceable and that provide something that we can't just move or create somewhere else," Commissioner Jane Kirchner (Algonkian) said.

Grants awarded to Purcellville Tag Sale and Music and Arts

BY VALERIE CURY

At the July 25 Purcellville Town Council Meeting, Council Member Boo Bennett was quick to correct an erroneous

COMMUNITY

statement by Council Member Erin Rayner

concerning the Purcellville VA Tag Sale Grant. Bennett stated that a Loudoun Tourism Grant awarded to the Purcellville VA Tag Sale, which is not a town sponsored event, was written and applied for by Silas Redd, owner of Nostalgia Vintage Clothing and Antique Furniture on Main Street.

Council Member Erin Rayner had earlier said she wanted to congratulate the Parks and Recreation Committee "in particular Brian Morgan, who applied and we were granted the Loudoun Tourism Grant for our Music and Arts Festival and Our Tag Sale – so well done to Brian for finding that grant and applying for it, and getting us tens of thousands of dollars in funding for our festivals," said Ravner.

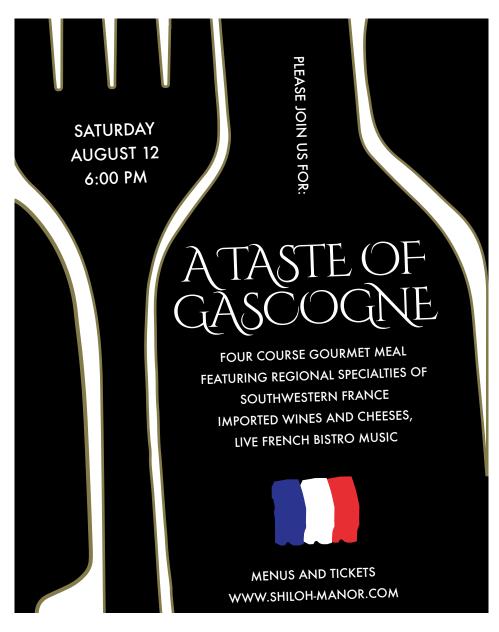
Rayner's comments were referring to newly awarded Loudoun Tourism Grants given by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, which are meant to support tourism events that bring visitors to Loudoun.

Said Bennett, "That [Tag Sale] grant was written by Silas Redd. He is the owner of Nostalgia. This was the first time he wrote a grant and he was awarded money." Bennett said that for the last 3 years Redd has stepped up to run this very successful community event in Purcellville, which brings thousands of people to western Loudoun.

Purcellville police collecting school supplies

By the end of August, children will head back to the classroom, and unfortunately some will do so without the necessary supplies. The Purcellville Police Department is supporting local students by collecting these much-needed supplies, now through Aug. 9. Due to the police station currently under-

going renovations, the Purcellville Police Department will have a box in the lobby of the Purcellville Town Hall to collect CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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JORDAN MILLER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

adjust to.

Both Miller and Donna Miller recalled that Miller did not play at his best when he first began college basketball at George Mason. It took time for Miller to watch and learn the differences between high school and college basketball, but once he adjusted, he found himself thriving.

Similarly, upon deciding to transfer to University of Miami in 2021, Miller needed to adapt to a new team and atmosphere.

"There's gonna be trials, there's gonna be tribulations, but it's how you push through it that is what makes you successful," Miller said.

When talking about Miller's success

story, many noted that he stands out not only for his skill, but also for his character and personable nature.

In between fond stories of past basketball games and Miller's friendship with his teammates, Dawson recalled asking Donna Miller "what she did to raise such fine young men," referring not only to Miller, but also to his three brothers.

"When I think about the thing that's most impressive about this young man is not that he got the perfect game, it's not that he played for Miami," Randall said. "The thing



Jordan Miller and his family



Jordan Miller and his former Loudoun Valley Coach Chad Dawson.

that's so impressive about him is he's kind. He's a kind, nice, young man."

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution at a business meeting on July 18 that recognized all Miller has achieved in his basketball career thus far.

"Due to displaying excellence in his



AUGUST 2023

Miller with his third grade teacher.



craft, and by starting in every contest

of his final year of college, Jordan Miller

has set an example of the dedication and

commitment needed to reach these great

When it was Miller's turn to give the

closing speech of the event, he took the

microphone from the podium in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »

achievements," the resolution reads.

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Loudoun County Health Department is now locally administered

The Loudoun County Health Department is now under the administration of the county government, completing a process formally initiated by Loudoun County in 2020 with its fall Legislative Report, to serve Loudoun resi-

GOVERNMENT

dents better and improve several operational efficiencies. Under an agreement between

Loudoun County and the Virginia Department of Health, the department has transitioned from state to local administration, which became effective July 1.

Approximately fifty former state employees of the Loudoun County Health Department have transitioned to county employment, joining other county employees who were already employed in the department, with all reporting up to the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors.

"The local administration of the Health Department is something the county has been working toward for several years and I am pleased to see this come to fruition," said Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis J. Randall. "I look forward to the increased efficiencies and the elimination of any disparity between state and county employees."

The benefits of local control of the Health Department include greater administrative efficiencies and the ability to better align resources with community needs and goals. Local administration provides the county with greater control over budget and programmatic choices, allowing the county to better manage responsive programming for Loudoun's residents and businesses and to set priorities for the department in alignment with the Board of Supervisors' vision and strategy. Local administration also allows the county to better address the disparities in salaries and benefits that occurred between state and county employees performing the same or similar work in the Health Department. In addition, local administration will eliminate the need for duplicate systems in the areas of technology and human resources, for example.

"While administration of the department has moved from the state to the county, our mission remains the same: to provide health services that enhance and ensure the health of everyone who lives in, works in and visits Loudoun County," said Loudoun County Health Department Director Dr. David Goodfriend. "We will continue to work with our partners in the community to protect the environment, prevent the spread of disease and promote health."

In 2021, Loudoun County sought and received approval from the Virginia General Assembly for the authority to operate and locally administer the Loudoun Health Department. Loudoun becomes the third locally administered Health Department in Northern Virginia; Arlington County and Fairfax County Health Departments have been locally administered for many years.

The 2021 legislation also allows Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park to locally administer a health department. The City of Alexandria also now has the enabling legislation for local administration of its health department.

More information about the services provided by the Loudoun County Health Department is online at loudoun.gov/health. maintenanceThe Loudoun County Department of Parks, RecreationCommunity Center to enjoyand Community Servicesthe facility's recreational amenities, including the 25-yardannounces Dulles South Recreation and Community Centerby 50-meter competition poolwill temporarily close portionsa giant water slide, children'sof the facility for annual mainplay area, hot tub, vortex, lazy

Dulles South Recreation and

Community Center annual

tenance beginning next month.
The gymnasium will be closed starting Monday, Aug. 14, and is scheduled to reopen on Sept. 4, as the gym floors are resurfaced
river, and free swim and play area. Claude Moore Recreation and Community Center is located at 46105 Loudoun Park Lane in Sterling. Other indoor swimming opportunities for patrons

opportunities for patrons include the Round Hill Indoor Aquatic Center located at 17010 Evening Star Drive, Round Hill.

PRCS outdoor pools are located at Franklin Park and the Lovettsville Community Center. For more information on these locations, admission fees, and to learn more about all that Loudoun PRCS has to offer, please visit loudoun.gov/ prcspools.

The Dulles South Recreation and Community Center is located at 24950 Riding Center Drive in South Riding. For membership information, visit loudoun.gov/dullessouthreccenter or call 571-258-3456.

SMALL BUSINESSES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Virginia-based technology start-ups and fuel entrepreneurship. Most of this funding will be going to minority-owned businesses, fueling the diverse economic growth that has been one of Virginia's great strengths.

Another problem: under the bureaucracy inherited from the last administration and supported by the sitting state senate, projects like a family restaurant or car wash are often tied up in endless miles of red tape. One business owner said that getting a permit for a print shop took six months, while another had to wait three months to receive a response from the town permitting offices.

Unacceptable.

One simple idea to address this problem: creating "Customer Service" representatives at the county level with experience in small business ownership that can help business owners navigate local and state level requirements and regulations.

Taxes also play a crucial role in small

business growth, as one business owner who is thinking about an expansion shared at the roundtable. We must address this tax burden.

and restriped.

Monday, Sept. 4.

Thursday, Aug. 24.

Monday, Sept. 4.

Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The competition pool will

close Monday, Aug. 21, and

is scheduled to reopen on

The community center will

close Monday, Aug. 21, and

is scheduled to reopen on

The leisure pool will close

Monday, Aug. 21, and is

scheduled to reopen on

Monday, Aug. 21, and is

scheduled to reopen on

During the annual mainte-

nance, patrons of the facility

Claude Moore Recreation and

are encouraged to visit the

The fitness center will close

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy: Virginia is home to more than 795,000 small businesses, employing 1.6 million people and accounting for 99.5% of all businesses in the Commonwealth.

Under the previous administration, those small business owners felt that their voices and concerns weren't understood by their public representatives for three key reasons: they were influenced by special interests, they cared more about larger businesses, and they didn't take time to listen to or understand the views of business owners like them.

I'm committed to actively listening to small business owners and working as a member of a team to advocate for their needs. That's why I'm asking for your vote in November.

Juan Pablo Segura, Leesburg Segura is running for Senate District 31

STOP APPROVING NEW DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Loudoun also depends on how we define "western."

Last year, for example, the Board approved a motion by Catoctin District Supervisor Caleb Kershner to allow developers to build 247 new houses on a wooded property between Aldie and Brambleton that was zoned at the time for only 29 houses. In introducing the motion, Supervisor Kershner commented that he didn't like more houses, but he liked the builder and the subdivision was "an attractive and innovative design."

Our supervisors pay a lot of lip service to the unique, irreplaceable value of western Loudoun and the importance of preserving it. However, they have not seen fit to stop approving more development. When elected as Supervisor for the Catoctin District, I will change that.

> John Ellis Hillsboro, Independent Candidate for Catoctin District Supervisor



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37 percent of chips annually. Now, the U.S. produces only 12 percent, surpassed by Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.

The speakers were in agreement that a competent and educated workforce is vital to growing the chip industry both in Virginia and nationally.

On July 25, the Semiconductor Industry Association and Oxford Economics published a study that estimated the U.S. will be short roughly 67,000 workers by 2030.

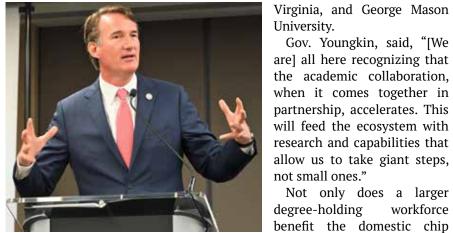
The study concludes that to have enough semiconductor technicians, engineers, and computer scientists, the country needs more people to obtain degrees in those fields. Otherwise, the U.S. will not be able to expand the technology sector as much as it plans to and risks losing the semiconductor chip race to international adversaries.

The Virginia Alliance for Semiconductor Technology, or VAST, intends to strengthen the talent pipeline from education to corporation, explained VAST founder Masoud Agah. To do that, he said, will require 50,000 hours of hands-on semiconductor training, 5,000 STEM degrees, and 500 semiconductor fast-track workforce certifications.

"It has been my sincere belief that we can create transformational impacts and changes," Agah went on, "when we join our creative minds, when we exchange our expertise and

when we share our advanced infrastructures and workforce development. None of us can do it alone."

VAST facilitates collaboration between leading technology corporations, such as Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and Amazon, as well as various Virginia education institutions, including Virginia Tech, the University of



Gov Glenn Youngkin



Masoud Agah founder of VAST



Kathy Warden, Chair, Chief Executive Officer and President of Northrop Grumman Corporation

to strengthen the nation's capacity for chip research, development, production, and employment. Ultimately, it was passed to boost U.S. competitiveness and innovation in global markets.

Virginia Tech president Timothy Sands said the state has been growing upward in its economic health Gov. Youngkin and Sen Warner at press event

Threats

and CEO.

Warner.

Virginia, and George Mason and technological influence, as Amazon's move to Gov. Youngkin, said, "[We Virginia demonstrates.

> "We are someplace that other states aspire to be," Youngkin said.

Younkin cited Virginia's No. 1 national ranking in education, workforce development, and site selection, its No. 4 placement in access to capital, its No. 5 spot in job growth, and its No. 10 standing in Though infrastructure. already an impressive achievement, he expressed

workforce

semiconductor

'This country is investing in

it is an exciting time to think

of the role that the Com-

monwealth can play in that

industry," said Kathy Warden,

Northrop Grumman president

Excitement around Vir-

ginia as the ideal location to

increase U.S. influence in the

semiconductor industry fol-

lowed Congress's passage of

the federal CHIPS and Sci-

ence Act, introduced by Sen.

The bipartisan act approved

an investment of \$280 billion

industry as a whole, but the

his desire to achieve first place overall.

"As we ascend, we are witnessing momentum build in such a tangible way," Younkin said. "We watch our job numbers, we watch companies move, we watch graduating classes, credentials offered through our community college system, high schools adapting to the next generation of education. We're watching it happen in real time, and those puzzle pieces come together and form the future."



CUPIDITY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

began at a Planning Commission meeting. The other combatants were ordinary citizens and citizens, and

OPINION

many farmers. Clearly the Count and

his coterie had been heavily lobbying Staff and Supervisors (and making significant campaign contributions.) Their argument was simple: Even the slightest constraint on their site engineering would require changes to land planning that would reduce site density.

It's all about density

Here, density means the number of acres per house, currently five acres. Density drives values. More density makes a property more valuable, and lower density, less valuable.

Staff had solved this problem by allowing clusters to be as small as five houses. Current zoning requires all houses, up to 25, to be in a single cluster. That makes for a large footprint, and thus it would be harder to work around prime soils using large clusters. Under Staff's new proposal, clusters of only 5 homes can be pinpointed on a property, making it easier to lay out a site and avoid prime soils. This would allow engineers to spread houses around a tract of land rather than plop all houses together in one place. This new flexibility, an engineer told me, should usually result in no change in density for most properties.

The Count ignored this concept and threatened to move his easement business out of the county. If you want to think of the psychology behind threats, Google "Narcissistic Personality Disorder." I'm not saying it applies here, but you might find it interesting.

Apparently, the Planning Commissioners don't like threats, and a majority of their comments seemed to endorse the 70% level of prime soils protection. Unfortunately, they decided to hire an engineering consultant and to defer a decision. Bummer.

In developing millions of square feet of office buildings for an Atlanta firm, Charles Houston never had to pave a single gravel road. He lives on an unpaved road where traffic is slow and safe.

REED ANNOUNCES. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Purcellville's treasured way of life. He will stand up to developer pressure and oppose unnecessarily growing the town's borders. He supports the Planning Commission's work on the zoning ordinance, which must reflect the town's Comprehensive Plan. "The 'citizens' wishes should be protected, and I will stand up for that," he said.

Reed is running on slow growth, debt reduction and controlled spending. Reed supports the current Council majority and commits to considering varying perspectives in keeping Purcellville a great place for us to live, work and enjoy life.



Tim Sands 16th President of

Virginia Polytechnic Institute

and State University and a

professor in the College of

Engineering



19

Last stop for the culinary Tour of France at Shiloh Manor Farm

Come join Chef Erik and owner Nick Donnangelo on Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. at Shiloh Manor Farm located at 14781 Berlin Turnpike in Purcellville. The evening offers authentic French Gascon cuisine, imported wines and cheeses, and live French bistro music. Seating is limited and dinners sell out early. Tick-

COMMUNITY

ets are \$150/plate and available at www.shiloh-manor.com.

For this the last stop in the Culinary Tour of France at Shiloh Manor Farm, Chef Erik has developed a menu that makes it easy to understand why the French say even the poorest peasant in Gascogne eats like a king.

The evening begins with Amuse-Bouche of Foie Gras and Salmon Canapés. While many might not think of salmon in France, the many rivers that flow from the Pyrenean snowcaps provide excellent salmon fishing. The menu includes fresh wild caught salmon canapés drizzled with herb seasoned grapeseed oil.

Hors d'œuvres consists of your choice of a Salade Chaud de Confit du Carnard or Bisque de l'Écrevisse. Confit du Canard is one of the pillars of Gascon cuisine. Salade de Confit du Canard features a classically prepared potted duck, deep fried, crispy, and boneless, sliced and served warm over a bed of mixed Shiloh Farm greens with a walnut oil vinaigrette.

Bisque de l'Écrevisse is a delicious crawfish bisque. In this authentic

Come join Chef Erik and owner Nick onnangelo on Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. at hiloh Manor Farm located at 14781 erlin Turnpike in Purcellville. The eve-

> The Entrée features your choice of Poule au Pot or Le Gigot d'Agneau. Poule au Pot (literally "chicken in a pot") is long associated with "Good King Henri IV," a native of Pau.

> Le Gigot d'Agneau – roast leg of lamb – is a classic French comfort food. Le Gigot d'Agneau is served with fresh summer vegetables, including Oignon Montesquieu – savory pearl onions in a sweet and sour sauce. Both entrées are paired with a fine Médoc Cru Bourgeois Supérieur from Chateau Pierre de Montignac.

> Any traditional French meal always has a separate cheese course. Shiloh Manor Farm is offering a Plat du Fromage comprised with three classic cheeses from the southwest of France: Ossau-Iraty, Pic de Cabasse and Rocamadour. The cheese course comes with a fine sparkling rosé from Domain Figuerie.

> Choose from your choice of the Gascon classic Cannelé or Crème Brulé for dessert. Cannelé is a small pastry made with cognac and vanilla with a soft custard center and a thick, crisp, and caramelized crust. It is a multi-day process to make Cannelé requiring specialized copper molds seasoned with beeswax from the farm's own apiary. Crème Brulé is a soft vanilla custard, topped with sugar caramelized to perfection. Don't forget the coffee and tea, which is the perfect ending of a wonderful Gascon meal.

TASTE Leesburg returns to downtown Leesburg

TASTE Leesburg will return to downtown Leesburg on Saturday, Aug. 12.

Food vendors, breweries, wineries, businesses, artisans, and entertainment will fill five blocks of the historic downtown. Experience the flavor of Leesburg with over 65 booths showcasing a taste of all that the Town has to offer. Local restaurants, food trucks, and vendors will offer a variety of menu options for purchase or stop into one of the downtown restaurants for a bite to eat.

Local breweries and wineries will also be on-site offering samples of beer, wine, cider and mead. A discounted Early Bird Drink Ticket is available online and costs \$45. Ticket prices will increase to \$55 on August 12. All ticket purchases



include a souvenir sampling glass and unlimited drink tastings.

Check-in tents will be located throughout the event footprint to verify your ID and have your ticket scanned. A limited number of beverage tickets may CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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CARDINAL CORNER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just north of the Town of Purcellville and fronts Berlin Turnpike and the corner of St. Francis Court – across from John Deere. It is currently in the county and zoned JLMA-3 (Joint Land Management Area) which is one house per 3 acres. If annexed into the town, the property would have access to town utilities as well as high density, potentially bringing up the value of the property to tens of millions of dollars.

This property, along with other neighboring parcels, was presented to the town approximately a decade ago for annexation. The vision at the time was for a theme park – complete with go carts and bumper cars – with operating hours up to 11 p.m. daily.

The Chapmans also own Vineyard Square on 21st Street in downtown Purcellville, a project approved for retail plus 40 condos. Vineyard Square was once presented as a hotel before they changed it to condos and was previously approved approximately 13 years ago by the Lazaro administration.

McCleary said the zoning he is seeking would be mixed use commercial. He envisions a hotel of 108-130 beds with a restaurant and a 200-capacity conference room, a stand-alone farm-to-fork style restaurant of 5,000 sq. ft. (more or less), an agritourism market open 7 days a week, and a gas station with a



convenience store.

"When this property came for sale about a year ago, we jumped at the opportunity to buy it," McCleary said. "We know the importance of this corner. It's the entry into our town ... this could be the welcome of this town."

He said it would create a place to stay "for the multibillion-dollar industry for the agro tourists [sic] going to our vineyards, going to our breweries ... but have to go back to Leesburg or Winchester to stay." This project, he said, would bring in tax revenue through hospitality and meals taxes.

McCleary stressed that he and his partners want to work with the town. He said the hotel groups they have spoken to are interested in a hotel, and restaurant groups are interested as well.

"It would make it so traffic doesn't have to go on Main Street," he said. "It would make traffic better ... pulling people out of coming into town."

He said he would like the hotel to be the size of a Hilton Garden Inn, with an in-house restaurant "that would be an alternative to some of the restaurants we have here now," a pool, and an event space that can host 200 people. He said they would work with the companies to design the hotel rooms.

He said the gas station could be a Sheetz, Wawa, or Royal Farms and would include a retail component. The farmto-fork portion could be both indoors and outdoors and could also be a beer garden.

Sam Chapman said he has been



Sam and Casey Chapman

hearing about the need for a hotel all his life. He said their property seemed "like a property that should be in town."

Council Member Mary Jane Williams said a Wawa and Royal Farms would have her vote as she likes the chicken at Royal Farms. She asked if they had contacted St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church to discuss the proposal. Casey Chapman said they hadn't reached out to the property owners yet, because they wanted council feedback first.

Council Member Boo Bennett asked why there was a for sale sign on the property and Sam Chapman said it was to generate interest, which it had.

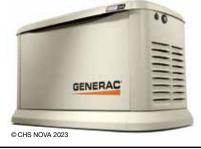
Bennett asked if they were looking for a corporate hotel or something one of a kind like the Red Fox Inn. McCleary said they have reached out to both corporate and private groups. Bennett cautioned that the proposal would take commerce away from businesses in town.

Council Member Erin Rayner said it was a "great location. We need a hotel and having it on the edge like this is perfect ... Having a hotel is a necessary thing."

Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut asked if the project is relying on annexation into the town or "could it be done in the county?" Casey Chapman said there would be a pathway through the county, but it would require "them to do additional CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »



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CARDINAL CORNER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

things on our part to make it happen." Bertaut asked Casey Chapman if the project would rely on building the Northern Collector Road. Casey Chapman said no. This proposal would take approximately 4 years to complete, he said.

Mayor Stan Milan said there is nothing in town which can accommodate a large convention. He said that the town is also missing tourism dollars. "I like the concept," he said. "The location is ideal, meaning it's right off of highway 7. I like this if it can look like what you presented, if it can have the rustic look like a Cracker Barrel."

The mayor said a boutique hotel "would be great. It would set us apart from your Motel 6."

Milan took a straw poll of the council to move forward with the potential

BOS AUTHORIZES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Revenue for the Rivana CDA's public infrastructure costs will come primarily from sharing of real property tax revenues generated by the future development within the CDA.

The Board appointed the following members to the CDA Board of Directors:

Sterling District Supervisor and Vice Chair Koran Saines: One-year term. Deputy County Administrator Erin

Council Member Boo Bennett

annexation.

All members said they liked the idea except Bennett who urged caution and said, "This was just the presentation tonight." She said she would want to think about it and added, "I do have concerns about the surrounding community."

McLellan: Two-year term.

Loudoun County Department of Economic Development Executive Director Buddy Rizer: Three-year term.

Developer representatives Andrew Marshall and James Stanford Nix: Four-year terms.

In addition, the Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement to outline the terms of the county's public-private partnership through the CDA.



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SAVOIR FAIRE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Virginia. Wolford learned not only the workings of the operation but the finer points of creating an event that captured culinary excellence combined with Southern hospitality. She also found that the freshest ingredients for dishes artfully presented would enthrall her clients.

In 1986, Wolford started her own business, the Hamilton Garden Inn, in Hamilton, Virginia. The Inn was a successful bed and breakfast as well as the site for many catered events. Wolford describes the time that famed TV weatherman, Willard Scott, had his 25th anniversary at the Inn. Such was Wolford's impression on him that the next morning on the nationally broadcast "The Today Show" he spoke highly and at length about the food and the homemade peach ice cream.

Following a solid run with the Inn, the restaurant and the catering, Wolford in 1997 made the decision to move to catering only. Savoir Fare (a play on words from "Savoir Faire" meaning "knowing how to do") has since catered special celebrations, dinners, luncheons, and hundreds of weddings. Their event calendar remains full but the latest venture, C'est Bon (meaning "that's good"), will be somewhat different.

Located across the street from Savoir Fare's commercial kitchen/event space, everything at C'est Bon will be catered until the kitchen there can be certified to operate as more than warming or keeping Savoir Fare's dishes cool.

Wolford's reputation for breathing new life into Round Hill's historic district goes back to her creating new dining options and C'est Bon will be more of that kind of unique celebration. It will draw from the incredible musical, theatrical and artistic talent that is so prevalent in the surrounding area.

First on the schedule will be special nights on two Saturdays in October. On Oct. 14, there will be a dinner and a show featuring seasoned theatrical performers. A Murder Mystery will take place on Oct. 28 with dinner and clues provided. Starting in November, music nights will be featured.

"I want to make the food affordable and have this be a comfortable place to enjoy a variety of music," says Wolford.

One of the stamps of Southern hospitality is creating a space that is relaxed and inviting – where one can find a mix of formal and informal. Joan Wolford and her team have done just that with C'est Bon and as she states, "We like to say that this is good food by people who know what they are doing."

Enjoying nights with fabulous meals and fun entertainment as well as celebrating landmark events, all in a historic spot, will make for fantastic memories created at C'est Bon.

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1843218

OUR TOWN AND COUNTY. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

conditions on the Valley Springs Drive when school is in session."

He explained that when school is in session, children walk along Crosman Court and must cross Valley Springs Drive to get to the bus stop. "Note there is no four-way stop in this intersection and Valley Springs Drive is provided the right of way."

Orentas said the increased construction traffic during the day will "create a hazardous situation for the bus drivers and the children." He also said the community wants to avoid having the construction entrance turn into the permanent entrance into Valley Springs II.

Regarding the issue of the construction entrance going through Valley Springs Drive, Council Member Boo Bennett said, "We need to reverse that. [The fact] that the county would perpetuate that kind of traffic on their own citizens and then someone in this town approved that, makes me sick.

"I really find that awful. These are the people who pay salaries here, and at the county level ... and they [the residents] tried to do the right thing to work with the county and the developer; and they are put last. I really do not appreciate that."

Concerning instances where the administrative staff has not been communicating with the town council on projects, Vice Mayor Chris Bertaut said that both the town and the county have their own comprehensive and transportation plans.

Bertaut explained that in the county plan, there's a "strategy outline for Purcellville and it's to support the Town of Purcellville efforts to support growth within the existing town limits - that will not compromise its small-town charm."

He said the County Comprehensive Plan "outlines the shared as well as the distinct responsibilities of both the county and the town. There is quite a bit of language that says the county must work with the town to achieve these goals and visions.

'That means the county and town employees must work together with the knowledge and consent of their elected officials," the vice mayor said.

'The so-called experts must be directed by citizens through their elected representatives, or the needs and desires of the citizens will be ignored for the sake of other interests."

"Our town and county experts work for the citizens at the direction of elected officials who represent them - any other arrangement is unacceptable."

Bertaut continued, "In the [County] Comprehensive Plan, the town and county must be consulted regarding development in both the JLMAs to the north and south of town and the areas to the east and west - which are adjacent to the county's Rural Policy Areas.

"Uses inconsistent with either uses described for the JLMAs and the Rural Policy Area are strongly discouraged within the Comprehensive Plan.

"If you've heard that the town has no say in what goes on in the JLMAs, you are being misled," said Bertaut. 'They are called Joint Land Management Areas for a reason and that reason is that decisions about what goes on in those areas are supposed to be made jointly by the town and the county through their elected leadership."

He said the strategy statement in the [County] Comprehensive Plan is to "encourage new commercial uses to locate in the Town of Purcellville before locating in the JLMA – which includes the Kuhn property on Purcellville Road across from the Mayfair community."

Bertaut also said the town sent a letter to the county asking them to remove the Northern Collector Road from their County Wide Transportation Plan.

"This NCR, if built, would transform Mayfair Crown Drive from a rural road solely serving the residents of Mayfair into a thoroughfare that would endanger town residents for the convenience CONTINUED ON PAGE 24 »



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BREMSETH APPOINTED, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

he had been "more than pleased with the performance of our current interim town manager," and he added that he had been impressed by the other candidates as well.

This sentiment was echoed by Mayor Stan Milan who said he appreciated "all the observations and policy additions and changes that the interim town manager has done in his short month of tenure with the

JORDAN MILLER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

center of the gymnasium and walked towards the bleachers as he spoke.

Directing his words at the children of the audience, he recounted nostalgic memories from his LVHS basketball days and expressed hope about the NBA journey ahead of him.

"The most important thing for me that I realized was dedication to whatever it is you love," Miller said. "Kids, even if it's not basketball. Whether you want to be an artist or musician or engineer, I want to be living proof that if you put your heart to it and you dedicate yourself to whatever it is you want to do that you guys can do it."

TASTE LEESBURG, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

be available the day of the event through online purchase only.

Live music will begin at 5 p.m. on the Center Stage, located on the corner of Market and King streets. The Sip & Savor Stage, on King Street between Cornwall and North streets, will feature an interactive DJ and demonstrations.

Parking will be available downtown at the Town Hall Parking Garage, the Pennington Parking Garage, and the Loudoun County Parking Garage.

Street closures will begin at 9 a.m. and are expected to re-open at approximately 1 a.m. on Sunday, August 13.

Sponsored by Country Buick GMC, Harris Teeter Delivery, Leafguard, Loudoun Credit Union, Loudoun Now, Power Home Remodeling, Prince William Home Improvement, and Sterling Appliance, TASTE is the place to be this August.

For more information about the event, visit www.tasteleesburg.com, or call Ida Lee Park Recreation Center at 703-777-1368.



town.

DR. MIKE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

TIM JON, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ously steep.

your children to see the potential of

a brighter future as a family. You can

slowly encourage your children to view

this transition as a period for personal

growth while also acknowledging the

Divorce is a challenging journey

for families and discussing it with

your children can be daunting. Open

More horizons beckoned on my

schedule, and I answered the call. But,

next time, if you should find me on the

bottom of the incline, camera in hand -

please remind me not to try to run back

up the trail when it's already danger-

PURCELLVILLE POLICE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Donations can be dropped-off at the

Town Hall located at 221 South Nursery

Avenue, Purcellville, Monday-Friday, from

School Supply Donation List:

• Large middle and high school

Regular size elementary

Drawstring bags used in

backpacks* (minimum size 13"

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x 18" x 8")

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"It's been a breath of fresh air to find a true leader for the town ... You can have good town managers that are not good leaders - but you can not have a leader that's not a good manager – and we have both. We have a good leader, and a manager," he concluded.

On July 26, Bremseth threw the first pitch at the Purcellville Cannons versus Charlottesville game. Bremseth played Junior Varsity Baseball in high school.

> communication, an emphasis on reassurance, positivity and patience, and your initial conversation on the topic can serve to alleviate some of your children's anxieties and guide them through this transition in a healthy way. The most important thing is ensuring your children feel continuously loved and supported throughout this process.

Lastly, it's important to turn to the

OUR TOWN AND COUNTY. **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23**

of through traffic.

"This town council is committed to preventing the extension of Mayfair Crown Drive through to Fields Farm Road and onward to 690. There are other ways to build a second entrance and exit that doesn't

If community members prefer to order donations online, we have created an Amazon Wish List which includes a sampling of items needed. Items can be ordered off the wish list and selected to be delivered directly to Purcellville Town Hall.

Loose-Leaf Paper (college)

- Markers (broad-tip, 8 ct.) &
- (thin-tip, 10 ct.)
- #2 Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Plastic Pencil Box
- Pink Wedge Erasers (latex-free)
- Plastic Folders (with pockets)
- Blunt-Tip Safety Scissors
- Pointed Safety Scissors

Sticky Notes

only new items will be accepted.

- Spiral Notebooks (college & wide-ruled)
- Subject/Tab Dividers for 3-ring Binders
- Tissue boxes

The Blue Ridge Leader is pledged to the letter and spirit of Virginia's

and HUD's Equal Opportunity Housing Policies. Virginia's Fair Housing Law makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, elderliness,

familial status and handicap. This newspaper will not knowingly accept advertising for real estate that violates the Fair Housing Law.

Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in the paper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. For more

this period if needed.

professionals if the upset becomes too

much to handle. Professional resources,

can provide additional support during

Michael Oberschneider, Psy.D. "Dr.

Pipeline Plaza, Suite 240, Ashburn.

the local residents."

dents of Mayfair.

private practice. He can be reached at

703-723-2999, and is located at 44095

involve creating additional risk for

The extension of Mayfair Crown

Drive has been supported through-

out the process directly then indi-

rectly by Council Member Erin

Rayner and candidate for town

council Caleb Stought - both resi-

Unfortunately, the Virginia sales tax free

holiday weekend is not occurring this year,

therefore, local students will need as much

assistance as possible. The items most

needed for collection are listed below, and

Mike," is a clinical psychologist in

information about Virginia's Fair Housing Law, or to file a Fair Housing complaint, call the Virginia Fair Housing Office at 804.376.8530; toll-free 888.551.3247; for the

hearing impaired: 804.527.4290; email – fair housing@ dpor.virginia.gov; web: www.fairhousing.vipnet.org.

- Washable Markers (8 ct)
- Yellow Highlighters
- Zippered Pencil Pouches (for
 - 3-ring binders)

*As a reminder, schools in our area do not allow students to use wheeled backpacks. Gender-neutral colors are preferable for all grade levels.

Binders (1" – 2") (3 rings)

Composition Books (college &

Lined Index Cards (3" x 5")

Colored Pencils (12 ct.)

wide-ruled)

• Ear buds

Glue Bottles

Glue Sticks

Crayons (24 ct.)

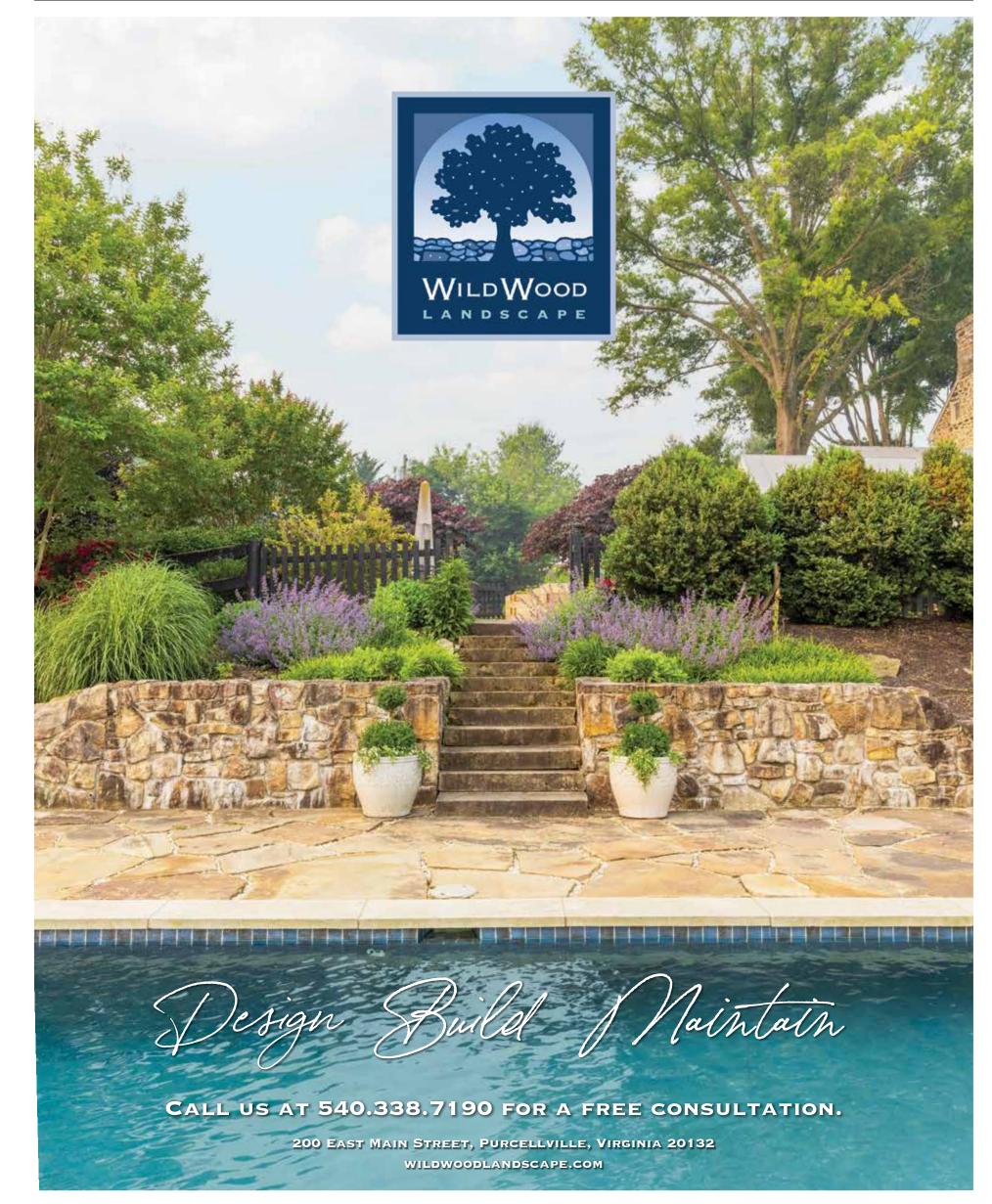
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